

**Agenda item:**

**Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee**

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010**

Report Title: A Haringey Stocktake

Report of **Mark Gurrey, AD Performance**

Signed :

Contact Officer : Mark Gurrey, Assistant Director, Performance

Wards(s) affected: **ALL**

Report for: **Non Key Decision**

**1. Purpose of the report**

To set out initial arrangements for a Haringey Stocktake.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to agree the date for the stocktake and to the plans for its conduct.

**3. Reason for recommendation(s)**

**4. Other options considered**

4.1. N/A

**5. Chief Financial Officer Comments**

5.1. There will be some minor costs involved in setting up the stocktake which can be absorbed in base budgets

**6. Head of Legal Services Comments**

6.1. N/A

**7. Head of Procurement Comments**

7.1. N/A

**8. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments**

8.1. N/A

**9. Consultation**

N/A

**10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985****Background**

13. In the Autumn 2009, the Secretary of State, Ed Balls oversaw a 'ministerial stocktake' to review services to children and young people in public care. Part of the stocktake was to hear directly from children and young people about their experiences of care and how it could be improved.
14. A report, 'Care matters: A Ministerial Stocktake 2009' was subsequently published and the Secretary of State wrote to all DCS's and Lead Members on 6<sup>th</sup> December. In that letter, he acknowledged a number of improvements in the services delivered nationally but also spelt out two key messages that each local authority should address as a result of feedback from young people:
  - The continued use of black bags when children move placements
  - A reminder that children in care can stay with friends without their parents being subject to CRB checks
15. He reissued guidance to all Lead Members and for other Councillors that detailed a number of questions they could and should ask that would enable them to carry out their role as corporate parents.
16. Finally, he reiterated the expectations that local authorities would appoint 'virtual head school heads'; that they would actively participate in the 'Care2Work' programme and that they would enable the construction of a 'Children in Care Council' in their area.

17. The Corporate Parenting Committee asked that this authority replicate that stocktake and ensure that the voices of children and young people in Haringey's care are heard and that actions are taken as a consequence.
18. In order to carry out this work, the following is proposed.
19. Officers have been in contact with Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and they have agreed to host and facilitate the event. We have identified two potential dates – either May 22<sup>nd</sup> or June 12<sup>th</sup> – both are Saturdays to ensure no disruption to school attendance. It was the view of the Foundation that the first date would be preferable as it would allow for the possibility of one or two players to be around to meet the attendees.
20. Two repeated sessions will be held – one for 7-11yr olds and one for 12yrs and over. The sessions will be used to ask the attendees a number of key questions about their experiences of care, whether that is about the quality of their placement, their contact with their families or how often they see their social worker. We will use electronic voting equipment to capture responses.
21. The Foundation has also offered each group a tour of the stadium and facilities and refreshments will be on offer. We will be working with officers who lead on participation and with Barnados (with whom we have a contract for an advocacy service) to maximise attendance and participation – and to ensure the event is an enjoyable one for the children and young people involved.
22. Once the responses are in and collated, officers will work on responses to them and build them into action planning – it is crucial that the children and young people are given feedback and have a clear sense that something is happening as result of their input. It is proposed that this Committee should oversee and monitor the progress of that action plan once complete.